

03-0-1967

~~AN ORDINANCE~~

Councilmember Jim Maddox

*Carla Smith*  
*Natasha Archibald*  
An Ordinance authorizing the City of Atlanta to waive thirty percent (30%) of the City of Atlanta Water and Sewer rates for taxpayers age sixty-five and over whose annual household income does not exceed twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars; and for other purposes

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta is under a consent decree to upgrade its water and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, this is a massive undertaking that has been neglected for decades; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that this project could exceed \$3 billion over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these improvements are such that resources are not available for construction within the existing water and sewer revenue fund; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have, after extensive research and analysis, concluded that to maintain and upgrade the water treatment and distribution system and wastewater treatment and collection system to meet federal and state regulations and the future demands of economic growth in the City, a major program of capital improvements had to be initiated; and

WHEREAS, after extensively searching for needed funding, it has been determined that these charges must be passed along to the ratepayers in the form of increased rates, possibly tripling their bills; and

WHEREAS, this increase will place a heavy burden on the City's low income senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to provide some relief to this segment of the population.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** as follows:

**Section 1:** That Chapter 154, Article III, Division 3 (Water Rates, Charges and Related Matters), Sections 154-111 and 154-112 be amended to add a new paragraph to read:

“Water rates are hereby waived by thirty (30%) percent for domestic customers, aged sixty-five and older, with a maximum household income of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) or less.

**Section 2:** That Chapter 154, Article V, Division 3 (Sewer Rates and Charges), Sections 154-276 and 154-277 be amended to add a paragraph to read:

“Sewer rates are hereby waived by thirty (30%) percent for domestic customers, aged sixty-five and older, with a maximum household income of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) or less.

**Section 3:** Said ratepayer shall be required to file for an overage exemption with the Treasury Division in the City of Atlanta’s Finance Department.

**Section 4:** The income value in this ordinance is the resident’s adjusted gross income together with the adjusted gross income of the resident’s spouse who resides at such address, and does not exceed the maximum amount that may be received by an individual and an individual’s spouse under the Federal Social Security Act.

**Section 5:** That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.